

Toothbrush holder

Cross Reference to Related Applications (none)

Statement Regarding Fed Sponsored R & D (none)

Background of the Invention

The inventive tooth brush holder is especially designed and to be used in public locations such as hotels, motels and other locations where a frequent brushing of teeth takes place. It is a well known fact that the above noted locations have tooth brush holders in their bath rooms but they are not sanitary at all. They may frequently be cleaned but not in any sanitary manner. That is, the cleaning cloths may leave a certain amount of bacteria behind, which can only be removed by boiling water or by steam or by special chemicals designed for this purpose. Therefore, the next person using the tooth brush holder and placing his/her tooth brush into the existing tooth brush holder may pick up the bacteria from the existing tooth brush holder. This is highly undesirable and may lead to a transfer of illnesses or viral infections from one person to another.

An object of the invention therefore is, to assure that every person using a bathroom in a hotel or motel and has a need to brush his or her teeth will have a sanitary tooth brush holder available.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is an exploded and perspective view of the various parts of the tooth brush holder.

Fig. 2 is a side view of the tooth brush holder in an assembled form.

Fig. 3 is a part of the tooth brush holder that will be in contact with a tooth brush when placed therein in a sanitary package.

Detailed Description of the invention

The basic tooth brush holder consists of three major parts. 1 is the basic wall mount unit, 2 is a clamping element that clamps the tooth brush holder 3 within the wall mount unit 1. The basic wall mount unit is a hollow and rectangular receptacle. It has a hollow upper interior 4 and a lower hollow interior 7. This unit should be mounted in a bathroom of the hotel or motel in a convenient location, that is, close to the wash basin. It can be mounted by way of a screw 5 through a hole 5a including a second screw mount 15 (Fig. 2). The basic unit can also be mounted on a wall by way of an adhesive layer 6. The bottom hollow interior 7 receives the clamping element 2 and is held therein by way of a pin 8 that passes completely through the basic unit 1 and is held therein by way of a fastener 8a. The pin 8 also passes through the clamping element 2, that is, through the opening 10. Once the basic unit is installed it is held therein in a pivotal manner. The pivoting action is being restrained by the compression spring 13 which is interposed between a rear wall 7 of the lower interior hollow 7 and the back wall of the clamping element 2. A stud 13a is placed on the rear wall to keep the compression spring 13 in alignment for its intended purpose and, that is, to keep a constant bias of the spring 13 so that the clamping element 2 is always pushed inwardly toward the rear wall of the receptacle 1 which will be explained by having reference to Fig. 2.

Fig. 2 is a side view of the assembled tooth brush holder. It should be noted that the same reference characters have been used with reference to Fig. 1. In this Fig. 2, it can be seen that the clamping element can be activated against the bias of the compression spring 13 by pushing on the finger grip 12 by way of the finger F, for example. The movable clamping element 2 has at an upper end thereof a bulging protrusion which is designed to settle into a like-shaped recess 22 located in a lower section of the removable unit 3.

The removable unit 3 is formed into an L-shaped configuration with a horizontal

section forming a support for tooth brushes and a vertical section forming the fastening section so it can be retained within the wall mounted receptacle. The lower end of the vertical section has a chamfered area 21 so that when the vertical section 21 is pushed into the wall mounted receptacle, the chamfered area 21 will push or cam the protrusion out of its way until it can firmly settle within the recess 22 to be firmly locked therein. To remove the removable holder 3, the finger grip 12 will have to be activated by the finger F to thereby rotate the protrusion 11 out of the recess 22 to thereby free the vertical 21 and the tooth brush holder 3 can be removed from the mounted unit 1 by an upward movement.

Fig. 3 illustrates the removable holder 3 in a state prior to being installed in the wall mounting unit 1. As can be seen, like reference characters have been used to identify like elements of previous Figs. As can be seen, the removable holder 3 is encased in a clear view sanitary casing 30 and it is sealed at its ends by a sealing formation 31. This is the way an occupant of the room should find the removable holder 3. It is now up to the occupant to break the sanitary casing 30 and to remove it and then to push the vertical 21 of the holder into the wall mount 1 until it is clamped by the protrusion 11 in the recess 22. The assembled unit is now ready for use. When the occupant leaves the premises he/she can take the removable holder 3 with him/her. If not, the removable unit can be left in place and the service personnel will take it away and leave a sanitized and wrapped unit in place for the next occupant.

What I claim is: